UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1206
29 November 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DJIBOUTI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the declaration of the seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, held in Djibouti on 26 November 1999 (annex I) and the resolution on the Somali peace initiative and proposals of the President of the Republic of Djibouti adopted at the Summit (annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roble OLHAYE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-36544 (E) 011299

/...

Annex I

Declaration issued on 26 November 1999 in Djibouti by the seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

The Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development met in Djibouti on November 26, 1999 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Ismaël Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, and having carried out extensive discussions on a number of issue-economic, political and others, including issues pertaining to the further enhancement of the effectiveness of the Organisation-agreed on the following:

1. On Maintaining the Momentum In the Revitalisation of the Organisation

The Heads of State and Government, reiterating their commitment to the revitalisation of IGAD, renewed their resolve to continue, with a redoubled effort, to work towards making the Organisation an effective instrument for Sub-regional co-operation in all the areas referred to in its Charter.

In this connection, the Heads of State and Government expressed their conviction that Sub-regional co-operation among the countries of the region within the framework of IGAD has no realistic substitution. Accordingly, they emphasised that regardless of the setbacks in regional co-operation because of recent complications in bilateral relations among some member states, the strategic objectives of Sub-regional co-operation which are the mandates of IGAD to promote, should not be held hostage.

The Heads of State and Government agreed in this regard to explore possibilities for speeding up the pace of Sub-regional co-operation within IGAD on the basis of a fast track approach among those prepared and willing to jointly inject greater dynamism in Sub-regional co-operation based on the principles and objectives of the Organisation.

2. On Necessary Steps Towards Trust-Building Among Member States

The Heads of State and Government, taking note of the recent complications in bilateral relations among some member states and having drawn the necessary lessons from these, agreed on the need to enhance mutual confidence and trust among member states. In this connection, they expressed their conviction that a firm foundation of such relations lies in the scrupulous observance by all of principles of international law governing inter-state relations and in the unfailing and practical commitment to principles enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity. They emphasised that recent developments have shown without doubt that the sources of bilateral strains and conflicts in the Sub-region lie in failure to abide strictly by principles of international law and to scrupulously observe internationally accepted norms of conduct in inter-state relations.

Accordingly, the Heads of State and Government agreed to do whatever is necessary, individually and collectively, to work towards ensuring that the rule of law is respected in our sub-region and that our sub-region will be free of discord within and between states.

3. On the Resolution of On-going Conflicts in the Sub-region

3.1. On the Conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The Heads of State and Government expressed their hope that this tragic conflict would be resolved peacefully on the basis of the on-going facilitation by the OAU and its current Chairman.

3.2. On the Crisis in Somalia

The Heads of State and Government expressed their full support to the initiative taken recently by H.E. President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh on the crisis in Somalia. They agreed that the proposal made by Djibouti is fully in conformity with the general approach approved by the Authority in March 1998 in Djibouti and builds upon that decision and injects greater clarity into what needs to be done by IGAD and our partners to remove the obstacles to national reconciliation in Somalia.

Encouraged by the work of the Standing Committee on Somalia, the Heads of

State and Government called on the international community as a whole to co-operate more effectively with IGAD with the view to enhancing the role of Civil Society in Somalia for making a difference for peace in that country and for national reconciliation.

The Heads of State and Government reiterated once again that there is no alternative for peace in Somalia to pushing forward with the building block and the bottom-up approach in which the role of warlords is contained and that of Civil Society is enhanced. They agreed that peace in Somalia and the welfare of its people cannot be allowed to continue to be held hostage to the narrow and personal interests of those who have failed to save Somalia from continuing calamity. They called for and end to the political tourism carried out by Somali warlords and underlined the need for countries not to co-operate with those in Somalia that hinder the peace process.

The Heads of State and Government reiterated that those in Somalia who have so far sought to promote peace in their respective regions by encouraging the participation of Civil Society such as "Somaliland" later "Puntland" and more recently the region of Bay and Bakool and others, need the encouragement of the countries of the Sub-region and of the international community in general. They stressed the need for the international community to be forthcoming in providing assistance to make the peace dividend approach viable and to promote reconstruction effort underway in the various parts of the country. In this regard they called for the early realization of the UN Trust Fund for Somalia.

The Heads of State and Government, expressing appreciation to H.E. President Ismail Omar Guelleh for the initiative that he has already taken, encouraged Djibouti to pursue the initiative with greater vigour to ensure success. In this connection, they agreed on the speedy working out of the detailed implementation mechanism of the new initiative in co-operation with other members of IGAD and with all those who wish to contribute to national reconciliation in Somalia.

The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the situation in Somalia has not only continued to be a nightmare to its own people but has also grown by the day to be a source of serious concern to the countries of the region. Somalia, they agreed, cannot be allowed to be a haven for all sorts of criminals and terrorist groups who have the intention of making the whole region lawless and outside the rule of law. While appealing to the international community not to disregard the implications of this potential danger, they condemned all those

third parties who have chosen to exacerbate the crisis in Somalia, to push Somalia further into the abyss and to create chaos in the Sub-region through their co-operation with terrorist groups.

3.3. IGAD Peace Process in Southern Sudan

The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation to H.E. President Arap Moi for the lead role he continue to play for peace in the Sudan. They reiterated that the Declaration of Principles continue to provide an effective and just basis for resolving the crisis in the Sudan, particularly for national reconciliation which would pave the way for bringing to an end the conflict in the South.

The Heads of State and Government expressed the preparedness of IGAD to co-operate with all those with keen interest to contribute to national reconciliation in Sudan based on the principles expounded in the DOP and already accepted by the two parties in the IGAD process. The IGAD initiative is an African initiative and should remain so.

4. On other areas of Co-operation

The Heads of State and Government took note with concern the fact that given the reality faced by the Organization the pace with which their co-operation in other areas is proceeding has been far from satisfactory. In this regard, they agreed to do whatever is necessary to inject new dynamism into their co-operation in the economic area. They expressed their hope that partners will continue to provide effective co-operation to IGAD with the view to bringing about greater integration among the countries of the Sub-region. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for pushing forward with greater speed the pace of economic integration among the countries of the Sub-region. They agreed that there is a need to look into the possibilities for a faster track approach among those who see benefit in such an approach and based on the principales and objectives of the Organisation.

They Further agreed on the need of an immediate institutional assessment with the view to improve dramatically IGAD's organisational operations, effectiveness and quality performance.

In view of the critical need to develop the regional infrastructure, such as road and railway links among member countries, the Heads of State and Government

underlined the importance of involving the private sector to participate in regional infrastructural investment. In this regard, they agreed to convene under the auspices of IGAD and with the participation of partners, a conference that brings together the private sector, financial institutions and public enterprises, both within and outside the region.

Annex II

Resolution on the Somali peace initiative and proposals of the President of Djibouti adopted on 26 November 1999 at the seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

We, Heads of State and Government of IGAD member States meeting in Djibouti on November 26, 1999 on the occasion of the 7th IGAD Summit.

Considering the seriousness of the war situation prevailing in Somalia due to the absence of a central Government since 1991,

Considering further the commendable efforts made, especially by Ethiopia (country mandated by IGAD) and the OAU, the Arab League and the United Nations in order to settle the internal conflict in Somalia.

Reaffirming the crucial role IGAD has to play in the settlement of this conflict and the restoration of peace in the region.

Considering further the proposals contained in the speech of his Excellency ISMAEL OMAR GUELLEH, president of the Republic of Djibouti before the 54th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, September 22nd. 1999.

Aware of the legitimate expectation of the Somali people in particular, from IGAD, the OAU, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the United Nations to finalise the proposals made by the President of the Republic of Djibouti.

Convinced that at this stage, it is crucial to institutionalise the peace initiative for Somalia, proposed by the President of the Republic of Djibouti and current IGAD Chairman.

Recommending the need to further elaborate the initiative forwarded by the President of Republic of Djibuti, H.E. Mr. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh.

Decide:

1. To embrace these proposals and provide total support to the initiative and proposals of the President of the Republic of Djibouti and current IGAD Chairman in order to bring to fruition the Somali peace process.

To further elaborate in detail the proposal put forwarded by the President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh and to develop a mechanism of its implementation as soon as possible.

Urge the international community to support the Djibouti peace proposal.